

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is prepared for further prosecution of the present application, and is submitted with a Request for Continued Prosecution.

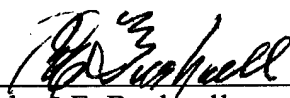
By this Preliminary Amendment, independent claims 24 through 26 are newly presented. Claims 10, 11 and 14 have been previously canceled. Thus, claims 1 through 9, 12, 13 and 15 through 26 are pending in the application.

A Request for Continued Prosecution and its requisite fee are concurrently submitted with this Preliminary Amendment.

A fee of \$550.00 is incurred by the addition of two (2) independent claims in excess of 4 and three (3) total claims in excess of total 20. Applicant's check drawn to the order of Commissioner accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. Should the check become lost, be deficient in payment, or should other fees be incurred, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of such fees.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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